NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

October 6, 1995

PARKING PROBLEMS?

SOLUTION:
RIDE SHARING

Why drive alone? *Share your car* -- one day a week or several days ... to and/or from the train station ... to and/or from your neighborhood ... to and/or from the suburbs. *Save money* -- by sharing expenses. *Share companionship* -- get to know your co-workers better and even staff from the other museums.

RIDE SHARE

With the loss of some parking around the museum campus, The Field Museum encourages staff to explore commuting alternatives. People at all three museums on the campus have expressed an interest in ride sharing to and/or from work.

A NEW *NATURAL NEWS* COLUMN

To facilitate this process, the *Natural News* will print a regular column that would give the names, work phone numbers and general geographic location of people who are willing to give rides or want rides so that they may contact each other. This *Natural News* column will be sent to the Shedd and the Adler for printing in their staff newsletters so that their staff can participate.

All arrangements -- including pick-up location, destinations and expense sharing -- would be the responsibility of the individuals involved. **The *Natural News* will accept no further responsibility for arranging rides than printing the column.**

This column will be printed each week for the remainder of October. Thereafter, it will be printed once a month, on the first Friday. If you wish to participate, please send the form below to **Carolyn Klyce,** *Natural News. The deadline is 12 noon on Tuesdays.*

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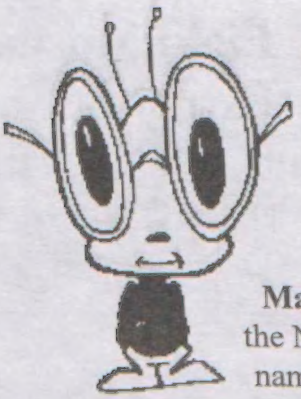

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

MARGARET THAYER AWARDED NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SERVICE CONTRACT

Margaret Thayer (Zoology) has just been awarded a 1-year, $32,500 contract by the National Biological Service (NBS) to coordinate development of a database of names of North American beetles (Coleoptera). This initial contract will provide for assembling the first half of the database, or about 15,000 names. There are around 24,000 **different** species of beetles known so far from North America, but more than one name has been given to some of them by different workers. Only one name can be correct for each species, so the database will include all names, indicating for each whether it is correct, who created it, and where it was first published. Margaret will assemble these data from various electronic and printed sources in collaboration with many other coleopterists (beetle specialists) from around the country and the world. Some colleagues have agreed to contribute databases for the beetle groups they work on, and others will check the records for "their" groups before the data are submitted to NBS.

These beetle data will be a significant part of a larger database (of **all** North American animals, plants, fungi, and microorganisms) called the Interagency Taxonomic Information System, or ITIS, which is being developed jointly by NBS, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Agricultural Research Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and several other agencies. The initial aim of this system is to provide a reference list of correct names for all known species in the North American biota. Additional kinds of information will gradually be added to the database. The ITIS database will be available to researchers, natural resource managers, and anyone else via the World Wide Web on the Internet, beginning with some components as early as October 1995.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for October 3, 1995 was presented by **Gregory Mueller** (Mycology/Botany). Greg discussed the status of current work with **Qiuxin Wu** (Mycology), on disjunct distributions of higher fungi. The occurrence of certain vascular plant species only in southeastern North America and southeastern Asia is a well-documented example of disjunct distributions. Since many of these tree species also have an obligate relationship with ectomycorrhizal fungi, Greg asked whether these fungi evidenced a similar pattern of disjunct distribution, and if so, whether the degree of genetic divergence between populations of a given fungal species in China and the southeastern U.S. would provide evidence of the timing of such a divergence. Previous workers have avoided the question of disjunct distributions because these fungi were considered to be either too poorly known at the species level or were thought to be so widely distrubuted that no meaningful pattern would be found. A review of recent literature suggests neither problem to be a major impedement. His question of genetic divergence had not been addressed previously. Greg then summarized results of their literature survey of the distribution of species of *Lactarius, Amanita, Ramaria* and *Boletaceae*. He used the Simpson Coefficient to correct for small sample size in analyzing the distribution patterns to show that each fungal group has a higher shared distribution between eastern North America and eastern Asia than with either western North America or Europe. Greg noted the problem of using data from the literature

Welcome! New Employees, September 1995

Charles Alvarez	Housekeeping	371
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Yule be glad you joined!

SHC (Single High-spirited Committe) seeking brave, talented, "Life of the Party" hams to perform 10- to 20- minute vocal and musical program of Holiday fun and fellowship with like-minded colleagues at The Field Museum's Holiday Fest (Personnel Party). If you are willing to rise to this unique challenge and are prepared to enjoy high-jinks and jocularity while rehearsing this entertaining exhibition of Holiday Music, call Cynthia at extension 460.

PARAMOUNT STUDIOS - RELIC FILMING
STAFF/VOLUNTEER PARKING PLAN

The Field Museum will be hosting Paramount Studios during the filming of Relic, which will take place primarily in Stanley Field Hall and the exterior of the building. The current filming schedule is October 16 - 27, 1995, but could extend through November 9. Occasionally, during this time period, Paramount will have full use of the north lot. The use of the west lot does not change.

PARKING PLAN

Paramount, working with the Museum, has made arrangements with the City of Chicago for metered spaces on Mcfetridge Drive to be the alternative north lot parking location for the Field Museum and Shedd Aquarium. Staff and volunteers will not be required to feed the meters. As long as Paramount is filming, Mcfetridge Drive will be managed daily as our staff lot, with additional assistance from the Chicago Police since it is a public street. Parking will be handled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Therefore, we encourage you to arrive as early as possible. The only reserved spaces will be for volunteers. On days, when the north lot is not being used by Paramount, you may be able to park in the lot. We have no way of informing you in advance of these dates.

Staff can begin parking on McFetridge Drive on October 16, 1995 whether Paramount is in the north lot or not. The street will be barricaded on both the east and west ends from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. After 9:00 a.m., the street will be open to the public. To get through the police barricade, we will issue parking placards to all staff and volunteers who have parking stickers. This bright pink placard should be displayed in your front window on the passenger side in clear view for the police officers to see. This should prevent you from being stopped.

ISSUING PLACARDS

Security will use a print-out of current parking stickers to determine who will receive a parking placard.

1. October 9: A security officer will be posted at the west door from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. to issue placards to current parking sticker holders.

2. October 10 -11: A security officer will be posted at the north door from 7:45 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. to issue placards to current parking sticker holders.

After October 11, all staff and volunteers should come to the security console for a parking placard. New staff and volunteers will obtain their parking placards from the equipment office during the issuing of I.D.'s and keys.

October 2, 1995

since a given species name may not have been used correctly. He outlined their pending NSF grant proposal to address such difficulties. He proposed a direct comparison of *Amanita* species to be collected from comparable latitudes representing ecologically equivalent subboreal and subtropical forests in China and the southeastern U.S. He also proposed comparison of DNA sequences to document the degree of divergence among these populations. Although their preliminary results of sequencing the ITS region has not found significant differences, other regions of DNA would be sequenced.

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Anna Roosevelt** (Anthropology) on the recent death of her mother, Frances Roosevelt, in New York.

With regret, we extend sympathies to the families and friends of two of our retirees who passed away during the summer.

Joseph Curtis Moore, who retired in February 1973, passed away on June 14, 1995. Joseph was a Curator in the Mammals Department when he retired after 11 years of service.

Agnes McNary Fennell, who retired in November 1967, passed away on August 22, 1995. Agnes was the Secretary to the Department of Anthropology for 21 of her 24+ years of service with the Museum.

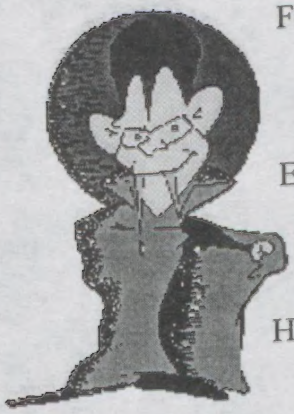
CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

Anna Roosevelt (Anthropology) returned recently from a thirteen-day trip to Brazil where she led the Field Museum tour with **Dorothy Roder** of the Tours Department. The tour went up the Rio Negro and down the Amazon to Roosevelt's research sites, ending in Belem. While in Monte Alegre, Anna was made an honorary citizen of the municipality by a special bill of the legislature. The tour learned that a soccer field next to her excavation site there had been named for her!

SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA FRIGHT FEST DISCOUNT COUPONS

Discount coupons are available in the Personnel Department for a Halloween Fright Fest on:

October 7,8,9,13,14,15,20,21, 22,27,28 and 29.



Each coupon represents a "Spooktacular Savings" of $6 off a one-day adult admission ticket. Each coupon is good for one person. We have a limited amount of tickets and they will be distributed on a first-come basis. Celebrate Halloween, Six Flags style!

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

THE VOLUNTEER SPECTATOR

The Field Museum utilizes the service of over 400 volunteers. Over the next several weeks, all Museum volunteers will be acknowledged in this column.

For work in collections and research, appreciation goes to the current volunteers and their supervisors in the Departments of Botany and Geology.

BOTANY:

Helen Beiser
Dietrich Haas
Alice Piller
Qiuxin Wu

Elisabeth Farwell
Randy Upton
Gregory Mueller

Ernesto De La Rosa
Nancy Hensold

Teressa Hicks
Gary Merrill

Dennis Hall
Samuel Mayo
Julius Wagman
John Engel

Sharon Kramer
Selwyn Mather
Daniel Snydacker
Christine Niezgoda

GEOLOGY:

Barbara Ballard
Sarah Young
Scott Lidgard

Irene Broede
Lance Grande

Mary Sue Coates
John McConnell
Gregory Buckley

Vesna Garber
Donald Newton
Trent Santanastaso
Matthew Zinsmeister
William Simpson

Wigberto Ingente
Clarita Nunez

Frank McCauley
John Bolt

David Nitecki
Matthew Nitecki

Kristen Swafford
Steven McCarroll

NEXT WEEK: *EXHIBITS, LIBRARY, MUSEUM STORE, PHOTOGRAPHY, PUBLIC RELATIONS, TOURS, VISITOR SERVICES and ZOOLOGY*